

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /095 W

-----100305 271845Z /47

R 271640Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0526

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 06881

ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, PORG, BE

SUBJECT: ILO - HOUTHUYS JOINS THE CHORUS

1. JEF HOUTHUYS, PRESIDENT OF BELGIUM'S CHRISTIAN
TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ILO
COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS, TOLD
REPORTERS ON HIS RETURN FROM GENEVA JUNE 25 THAT
POLITICIZATION OF THE ILO AND THREATENED WITHDRAWAL
BY THE U.S. ARE MENACING THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE
ORGANIZATION. HE SAID THE REPORT OF HIS OWN COMMITTEE
(WHICH "BLACKLISTED" INTER ALIA THE USSR AND CZECHOSLOVA-
KIA) HAD BEEN REJECTED THROUGH ABSTENTION OF COMMUNIST,
ARAB AND THIRD WORLD REPRESENTATIVES BECAUSE IT FAILED
TO CONDEMN ISRAEL FOR DISCRIMINATION IN THE OCCUPIED
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TERRITORIES. HOUTHUYS SAID THAT AN AGREEMENT - WORKED
OUT BY DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD - TO LEAVE THE ISRAELI
QUESTION TO BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY BY THE COMMITTEE
WAS NULLIFIED WHEN THE ARABS AND SOVIETS, MAKING
A DISTINCTION BETWEEN NATIONAL AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES,
REFUSED TO ALLOW THE COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION.

2. DESCRIBING THIS AS A "GRAVE DEVELOPMENT,"
HOUTHUYS SAID AN IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM
MUST BE FOUND. "IF THE UNITED STATES PICKS UP ITS
MARBLER IN NOVEMBER THE QUESTION OF THE SURVIVAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION WILL BE POSED," HE SAID. "OTHER
COUNTRIES MAY FOLLOW. THE SOVIETS AND THE ARABS MUST
SAY CLEARLY WHAT THEY WANT."

3. HOUTHUYS DISSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM THE "TWO CAMPS"
VIEW OF THE ILO. HE CALLED THIS ATTITUDE AN ERROR
WHICH THE U.S. SHARES WITH SOME OTHER COUNTRIES. HE
ADDED THE OBSERVATION THAT CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHOSE
WORKERS MOST NEED THE ORGANIZATION ARE UNFORTUNATELY
CONTRIBUTING TO ITS DESTRUCTION. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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